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## E L E G Y.

[ Price Six-Pence.]


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Written in the Year 1748 ,

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\text { By Mr. } M A S O N
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KAI EN A\$POCTNH KAOESONTEC.

> Sophocles in Antig.

## L O N D O N:

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## PR 3548 M2i

## Advertifement.

$T \mathrm{HE}$ following Poem would never have appeared in print, had not an interpolated copy of it, publifhed in a country news-paper, fcandaloufly mifreprefented the principles of the Author.

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Her urn fuitain'd her arm, that fculptur'd vafe Where Vulcan's art had lavifh'd all it's grace; Here, full with life was heav'n-taught Science feen, Known by the laurel wreath and mufing mein:
There cloud-crown'd Fame, here Peace fedate and bland,
Swell'd the loud trump, and wav'd the olive wand;
While folemn domes, arch'd fhades, and vifta's green At well-mark'd diftance clofe the facred fcene.

On this the Goddefs caft an anxious look,
Then dropt a tender tear, and thus he fpoke:
Yes, I cou'd once with pleas'd attention trace
The mimic charms of this prophetic vafe;
Then lift my head, and with enraptur'd eyes
View on yon plain the real glories rife.

Yes, Ifs! oft haft thou rejoiced to lead
Thy liquid treafures o'er yon fav'rite mead,
Oft haft thou ftopt thy pearly car to gaze,
While every Science nurs'd it's growing bars;
While cr'ry Youth with fame's ftrong impulfe fir' c ,
Preft to the goal, and at the goal untired,
Snatch'd each celeftial wreath to bind his brow
The Mules, Graces, Virtues cou'd beftow.

E'en now fond Fancy leads th' ideal train,
And ranks her troops on Mem'ry's ample plain ;
See! the firm leaders of my patriot line,
See! Sidney, Raleigh, Hampden, Comers flume.
See Hough fuperior to a tyrant's doom
Smile at the menace of the lave of Rome.

Each foul whom truth cou'd fire, or virtue move,
Each breaft ftrong panting with it's country's love,
All that to Albion gave the heart or head,
That wifely councell'd, or that bravely bled,
All, all appear; on me they grateful fmile,
The well-earn'd prize of every virtuous toil
To me with filial reverence they bring,
And hang frefh trophies o'er my honour'd fpring.

Ah! I remember well yon beachen fpray,
There Addison firft tun'd his polifh'd lay;
'Twas there great Cato's form firft met his eye, In all the pomp of free-born majefty.
${ }^{\text {¿r }}$ My Son, he cry'd, obferve this mein with awe,
"In folemn lines the ftrong refemblance draw;
" The piercing notes Shall ftrike each British ear,
"Each Britifl eye hall drop the patriot tear ;
"And rous'd to glory by the nervous ftrain,
" Each Youth hall furn at flav'ry's abject reign,
"Shall guard with Cato's zeal Britannia's laws,
" And peak, and act, and bleed, in freedom's caufe."

The Hero fpoke, the Bard affenting bow'd,
The lay to liberty and Cato flow'd;
While Echo, as the roved the vale along,
Join'd the ftrong cadence of his Roinan fong.

But ah! how Stillness flept upon the ground, How mute Attention check'd each rifing found; B 2

Scarce

Scarce ftole a breeze to wave the leafy fray, Scarce trill'd fret Philomel her fofteft lay, When Locke walk'd mulling forth; e'en now I view Majeftic Wifdom thron'd upon his brow, View Candour file upon his modeft cheek, And from his eye all Judgment's radiance break. 'Twas here the age his manly zeal expreft, Here ftript vain Falfhood of her gaudy veft; Here Truth's collected beams frt fill'd his mind, E'er long to burn in bleffings on mankind; E'er long to flow to reafon's purged eye, That "Nature's first best gift was Liberty."

Proud of this wondrous for, fublime I food, (While louder furges fwell'd my rapid flood)

Then vain as Niobe, exulring cry'd,
Iliffus! roll thy famed Athenian tide;
Tho' Plato's tzeps oft mark'd thy neighb'ring glade,
Tho' fair Lyceum lent it's awful hade,
Tho' every Academic green impreft
It's image full on thy reflecting breaft,
Yet my pure stream Shall boat as proud a name,
And Britain's Ifis flow with Attic fame.

Alas! how chang'd! where now that Attic boat?
See! Gothic Licence rage o'er all my coat.
See! Hydra Faction fpread it's impious reign,
Poifon each breaft, and madden ev'ry brain.
Hence frontlefs crouds that not content to fright The bluffing Cynthia from her throne of night,

Blast

Blat the fair face of day ; and madly bold,
To Freedom's foes infernal orgies hold ;
To Freedom's foes, ah! fee the goblet crown'd,
Hear plaufive flouts to Freedom's foes refound;
The horrid notes my refluent waters daunt,
The Echoes groan, the Dryads quit their haunt;
Learning that once to all diffus'd her beam,
Now fheds by ftealth a partial private gleam,
In forme lone cloifter's melancholy fade
Where a firm few fupport her fickly head;
Defpis'd, infulted by the barb'rous train,
Who four like Thracia's moon-ftruck rout the plain,
Sworn foes like them to all the Mure approves,
All Pbabus favours, or Minerva loves.

## (15)

Are thee the cons my foft'ring brat muff rear?
Graced with my name, and nurtur'd by my care,
Mut the fe go forth from my maternal hand
To deal their infults thro' a peaceful land,
And boat while Freedom bleeds, and Virtue groans,
That "I frs taught Rebellion to her Sons?"
Forbid it heav'n! and let my riling waves
Indignant fuel, and whelm the recreant flaves,
In England's cafe their patriot floods employ,
As Xanthus delug'd in the cause of Troy.
Is this deny'd? then point forme fecret way
Where far far hence thefe guiltlefs freams may fray,
Some unknown channel lend where nature Spreads
Inglorious vales and unfrequented mads,

## ( 16 )

There where a Hind fearce tunes his ruftic ftrain,
Where farce a Pilgrim treads the pathlefs plain
Content I'll flow; forget that e'er my tide Saw yon majeftic ftructures crown its fide; Forget that e'er my wrapt attention hung Or on the Sage's or the Poet's tongue, Calm and refign'd my humbler lot embrace, Aná pleas'd prefer oblivion to difgrace.

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